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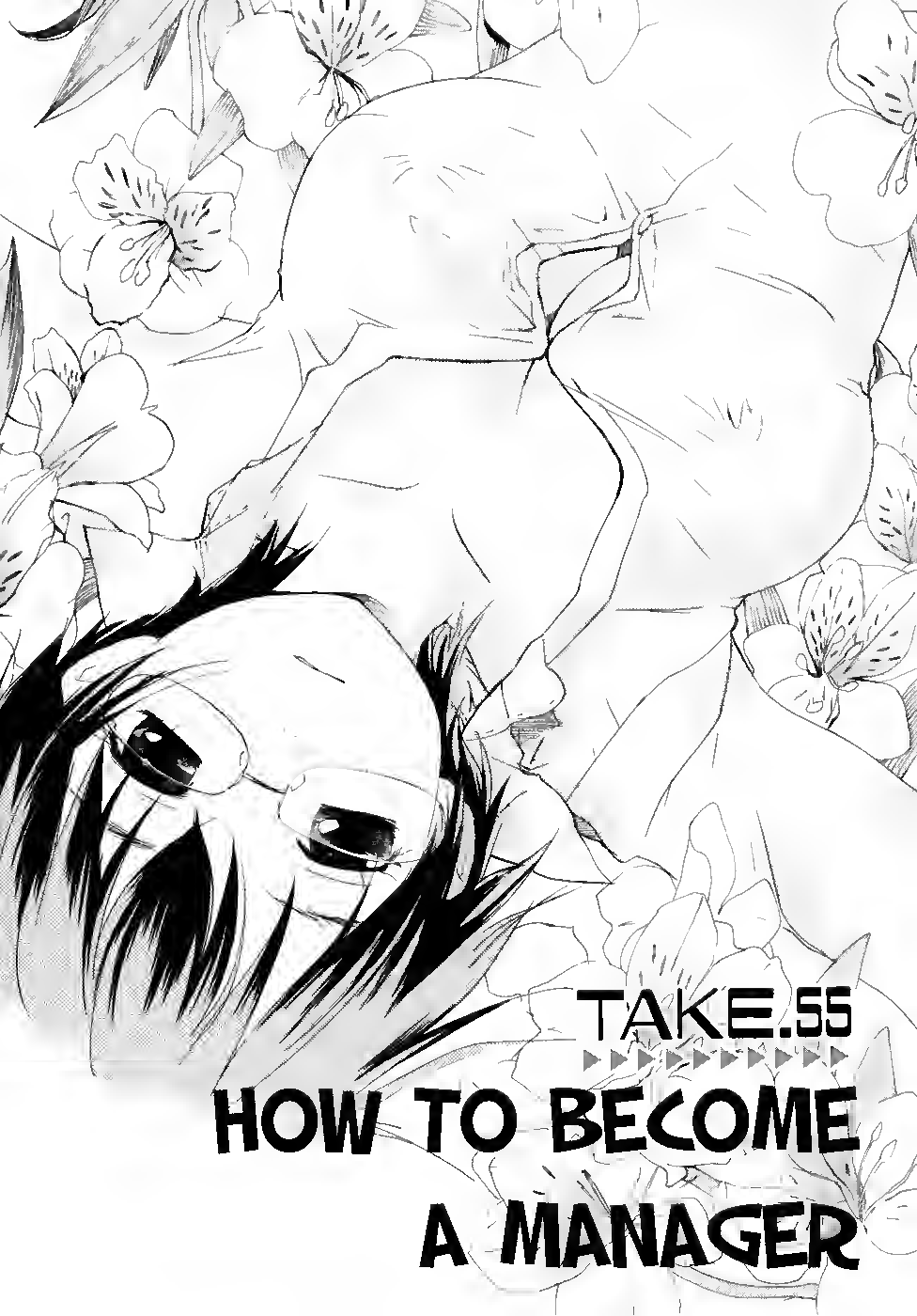


TAKE.55
HOW TO BECOME A MANAGER

HAA
HAA
HAA
HA
WHAT... HAVE I...
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HAA
AH...
HAA
2
NOOOOO OOOOO!

!
Waa!

YEAH.
ARE YOU OKAY?
MANAGER YOSHIOKA!?
YO... YOSHIOKA -SAN!?

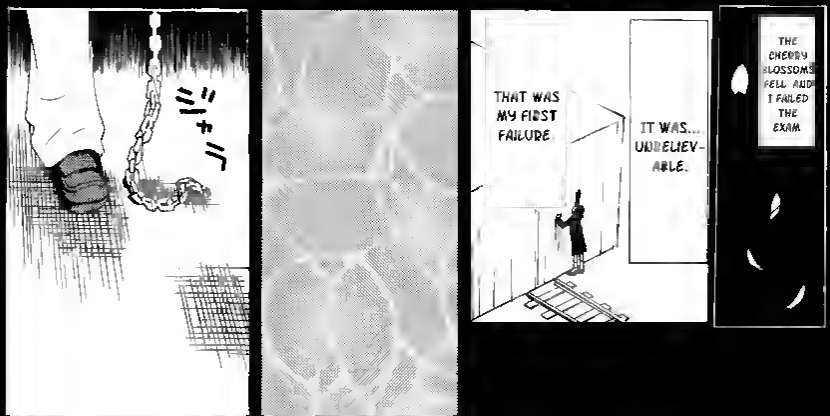
3

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS THE AFTER-PARTY FOR EX'S CD RELEASE CONCERT, YOSHIOKA-SAN.

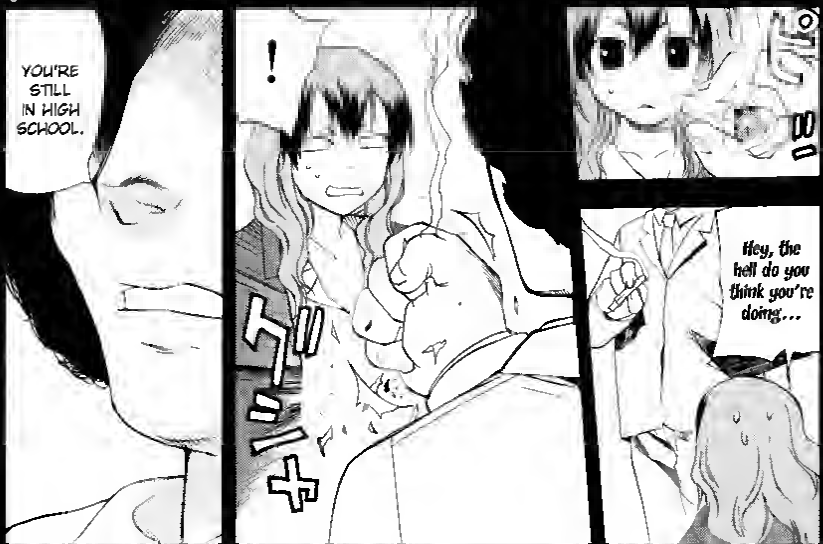
UH, WHERE AM I?
I DOZED OFF.
AH... SORRY.

WE GOT THEM FROM A FAN AT THE CONCERT
WHAT ARE THESE FLOWERS FOR?
A DREAM WHERE YOU STABBED SOMEONE AND YOUR HANDS WERE COVERED IN BLOOD?
IS IT BECAUSE OF STRESS?
UMM, I'M NOT SURE I'D CALL IT A DREAM...
THE FLOWERS?
ALSTROEMERIA?
THESE FLOWERS MUST HAVE BEEN THE REASON I HAD A DREAM LIKE THAT.
YOU GUYS STILL DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?
HOW I BECAME A MANAGER FOR GENEPRO, THAT IS.
4
15 YEARS OLD...
WHEN I WAS
AH, IT ALL STARTED...
HMM, WHERE SHOULD I START...
TELL US! TELL US!
WHA, AN OLD TALE ABOUT YOSHIOKA-SAN!?
HEY NOW, IT'S NOT THAT OLD.

HAVING BECOME THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT...
I WAS A LUMP OF PRIDE WITH AN INTENSE PERSONALITY
BEHIND MY BACK THEY CALLED ME A DWEEB.
I THINK IT'S THE TEACHER'S JOB TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE STUDENTS.
THAT'S WHAT SHOULD'VE HAPPENED
AT LEAST,
OF COURSE, I'D CONTINUE ON TO THE TOP LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL...


THAT WAS MY FIRST FAILURE.
IT WAS... UNBELIEV-ABLE.
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FELL AND I FAILED THE EXAM.

THIS IS PISSING ME OFF!
SCREW THAT.
HEBBI METARU
I GOT INTO SOME RANDOM SCHOOL AND BECAME A DELINQUENT.
THERE'S NO FREAKING WAY I'M GOING TO SCHOOL!


YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
!
Hey, the hell do you think you're doing...

A PEDOPHILE?
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING YOU CAN GET SERIOUS ABOUT?
YOU'LL AMOUNT TO NOTHING IF YOU BEHAVE LIKE THIS.
THAT WAS
HOW I MET THE CURRENT PRESIDENT
I WAS SCOUTED,
WERE YOU SCOUTED AS A VOICE ACTRESS?
BUT BACK THEN THE PRESIDENT WAS A MANAGER FOR A TALENT AGENCY.
TEN YEARS AGO,
THE PRESIDENT WAS 33 AND I WAS 17.
SO MUCH HAIR!
The president!!
No way!
WHA—
SO THAT MEANS!?

パシャ
パシャ
LOOK THIS WAY!

YOUR NAME IS KINDA PLAIN...
WE SHOULD GIVE YOU A STAGE NAME!
OKAY THEN.
YOU WILL BE...

GRAVURE IDOL YOSHIMI SANAKA.
AN INNOCENT FAIRY! EVERY TIME OUR EYES MEET, MY WORLD BECOMES ALL ABOUT SANAKA.
THAT BECAME MY NAME.
ハニー

ALSTROE-MERIA...
I'M HAPPY!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT FLOWERS YOU KNOW?
I JUST THOUGHT THESE WERE PRETTY...
A BOU-QUET...!
THE PHOTO COLLECTION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED! CONGRAT-ULATIONS!
I WASN'T WELL KNOWN,
BUT IT WAS FUN...
I HAD A LOT OF FUN EVERY DAY.

I bought your photo collection!
Back when I was 16!
Uhh thanks, Matsumaru-kun...

Now that you mention it, if I picture it in my head...
I can remember it!
Even though I wasn't well-known...

Matsumaru-kun

A gravure idol!?
Yoshimi Sanaka!?

Yeah... Thanks.
But

You had a really amazing encounter, didn't you.
Yea!
It's amazing that you were a gravure idol!

It didn't
Stay as just a nice story.

HUH...
FOR SOME AMOUNT OF TIME
THE PRESIDENT HAD OPPOSED NAGATA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE TALENT AGENCY.
YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOSHIMI SANAKA STRIP!?
NUDE!?
THAT GIRL...
THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
A BREAK, YOU KNOW...
THAT GIRL ALSO WANTS AN OPPORTUNITY.
NAGATA DISLIKED OUR PRESIDENT AND WOULD SUGGEST RIDICULOUS THINGS FOR THE TALENT UNDER HIS MANAGEMENT.
HE PRESSURED HIM.
WITH THAT CHEST SHE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME MONEY.
SHE'S NOT ACTUALLY POPULAR!

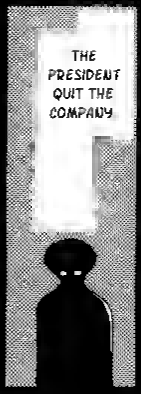
AH, AOMORI...

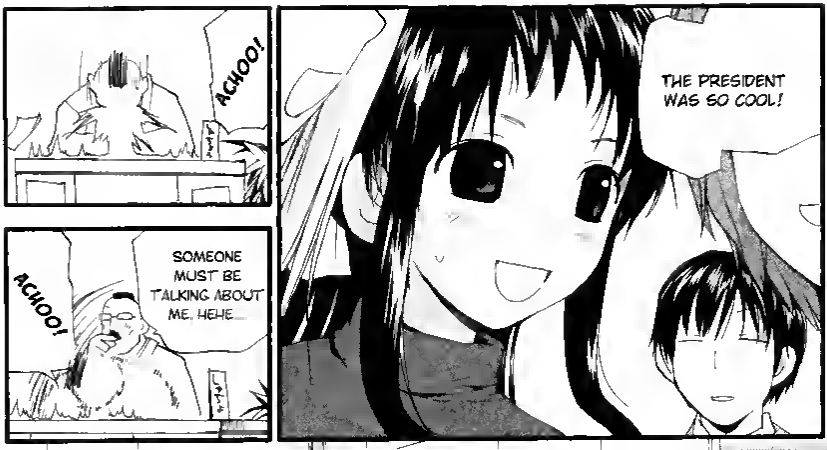
WITHOUT THE PRESIDENT
NAGATA STARTED PHOTO-GRAPHING

CHU

THIS IS JUST MY POLICY.
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU, YOSHIOKA...

IT WAS ALL MY FAULT...
HIC... I'M... SO... SORRY...


THE PRESIDENT QUIT THE COMPANY


ACHOO!
THE PRESIDENT WAS SO COOL!
ACHOO!
SOMEONE MUST BE TALKING ABOUT ME, HEHE...

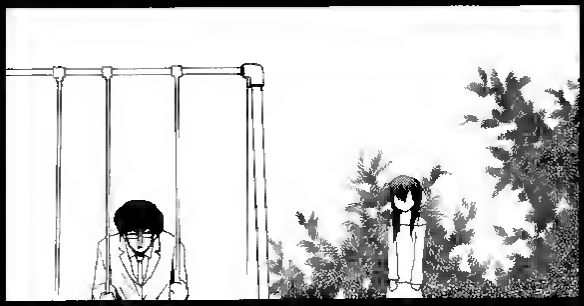
GENEPRO'S PREDECESSOR COMPANY
GENEXY PROMOTION
THE PRESIDENT STARTED A COMPANY ON HIS OWN, AND I FOLLOWED HIM

HE RAN AROUND TRYING TO RAISE FUNDS...
BUT EVEN WITHOUT WORK, HE HAD TO PROTECT THE COMPANY...
HE EVEN LOST HIMSELF TO ALCOHOL...
SLOWLY BECAME A DIFFERENT PERSON...
THE EXHAUSTED PRESIDENT...
NAGATA USED HIS INFLUENCE TO MAKE IT SO THAT NO WORK WOULD COME TO GENEXY...
BUT THE COMPANY SOON RAN INTO TROUBLE...

BACK THEN, THE PRESIDENT EVEN HAD A WIFE AND CHILD...
THEY ABANDONED HIM... THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, THOUGH.

I HAD NEVER SEEN HIM... MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT...
IT WAS A SHOCK TO THE PRESIDENT
HE WAS CRUSHED...

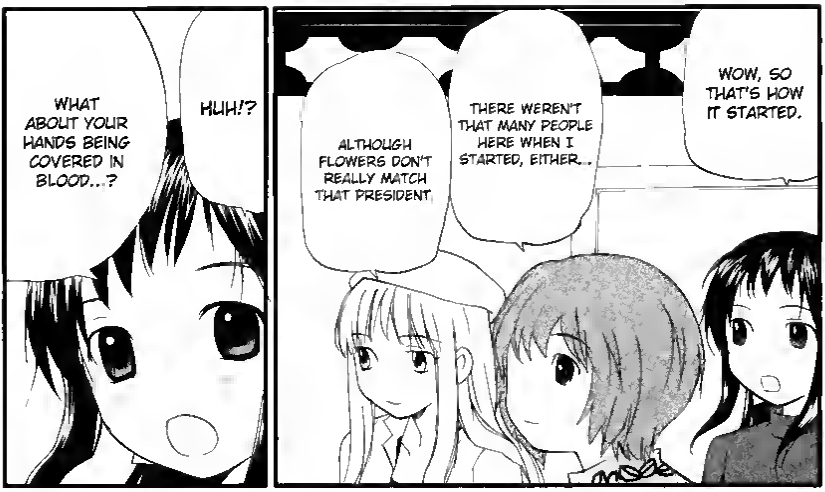
...
OH, YOSHIOKA -KUN...
PRESIDENT...
15
I'M SORRY...
GENEXY ONLY LASTED HALF A YEAR.
I'M SO SORRY...
I...
I'VE RUINED YOUR LIFE!



THESE FLOWERS...
.....
BACK THEN...
PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER
THE PRESIDENT AND HIS POLICY
WERE REALLY COOL!

YOU HAVEN'T RUINED MY LIFE.
YOU STARTED MY LIFE.
I...
.....

THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.
.....
I WON-DER
.....
IF THERE'S STILL SOME-THING...
I CAN DO...
AND AFTER THAT,
WITH THE HELP OF AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, GENEXY FOUND AN ESCAPE ROUTE IN VOICE ACTING, WHERE THERE WAS LESS PRESSURE.
AND SO THE CURRENT GENEPRO WAS CREATED.

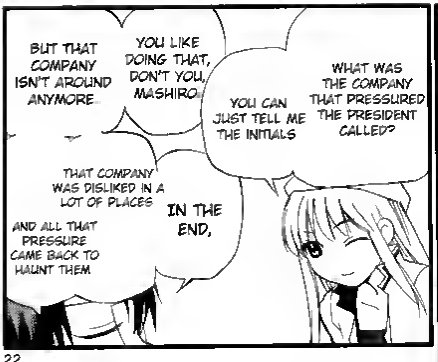

WHAT ABOUT YOUR HANDS BEING COVERED IN BLOOD...?
HUH!?
ALTHOUGH FLOWERS DON'T REALLY MATCH THAT PRESIDENT.
THERE WEREN'T THAT MANY PEOPLE HERE WHEN I STARTED, EITHER...
WOW, SO THAT'S HOW IT STARTED.

YOU WERE AN IDOL, WEREN'T YOU?
ALSO WHEN DID YOU BECOME A MANAGER?
TELL US THAT STORY!
THE KITCHEN KNIFE!
UHH... FINE, FINE...
WHA... WHATEVER COULD YOU BE TALKING ABOUT?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
OH YEAH

THAT'S RIGHT. THAT WAS...
A NIGHTMARE OF AN ACCIDENT...

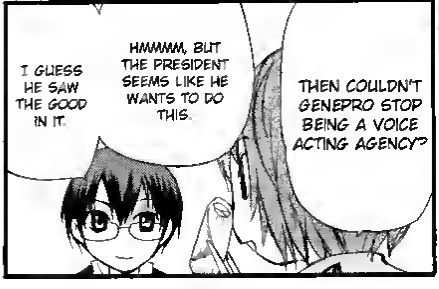
WHAT... HAVE I..
WHEN I WAS A GRAVURE IDOL, I MADE A GUEST APPEARANCE IN A DRAMA...
21
PFF!
Sorry, sorry. Her acting is just so bad...
Waha haha
バン
Kokkuku
PFF!
NOOOOO OOOOO!!
HEY!
YAMADA -SAN!
CORPSES CAN'T LAUG... HEH...
YOU'RE SUCH A HAM!
PFF!

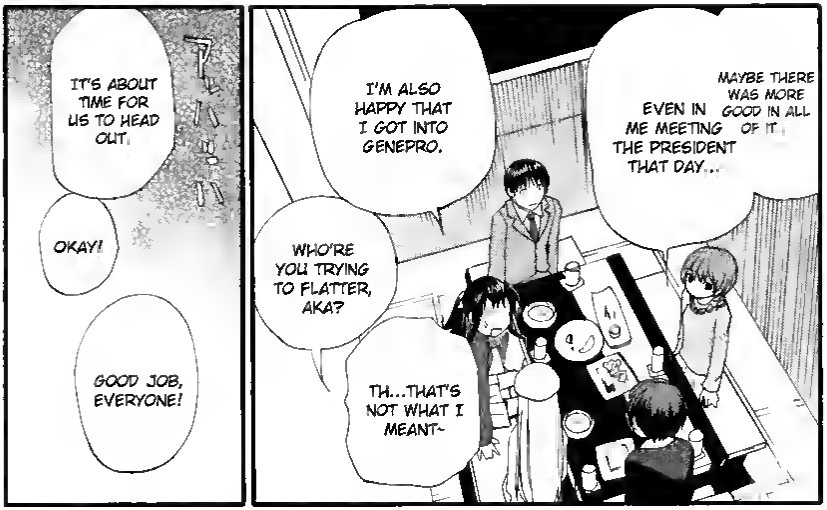
THE PRESIDENT'S COMPANY HAD JUST STARTED ANEW...
I QUIT GETTING UP ON STAGE...
FROM THAT DAY ON,
AND, HAVING SUFFERED A LOT OF TRAUMA
THAT DAY, I GOT IN A LOT OF TROUBLE...
SO I HAD HIM MAKE ME A MANAGER!
YOU...

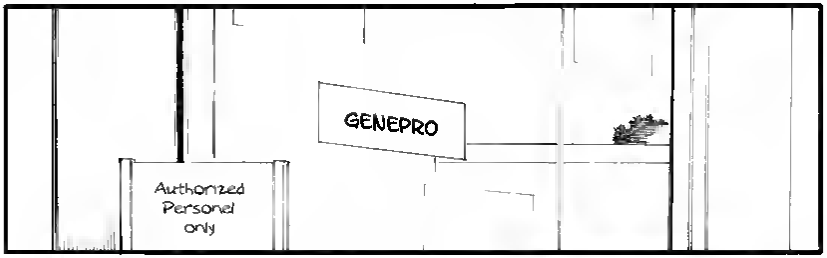

BUT THAT COMPANY ISN'T AROUND ANYMORE...
YOU LIKE DOING THAT, DON'T YOU, MASHIRO.
YOU CAN JUST TELL ME THE INITIALS
WHAT WAS THE COMPANY THAT PRESSURED THE PRESIDENT CALLED?
THAT COMPANY WAS DISLIKED IN A LOT OF PLACES
AND ALL THAT PRESSURE CAME BACK TO HAUNT THEM.
IN THE END,

WHAT AN IRRESPONSIBLE LIFE...
WELL, LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, I MAY HAVE BEEN MEANT FOR THIS... OR SOMETHING.
YOU GOT SOMETHING IN YOUR TEETH?

22


I GUESS HE SAW THE GOOD IN IT.
HMMMM, BUT THE PRESIDENT SEEMS LIKE HE WANTS TO DO THIS.
THEN COULDN'T GENEPRO STOP BEING A VOICE ACTING AGENCY?


IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO HEAD OUT.
OKAY!
GOOD JOB, EVERYONE!
I'M ALSO HAPPY THAT I GOT INTO GENEPRO.
WHO'RE YOU TRYING TO FLATTER, AKA?
TH...THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT~
EVEN IN ME MEETING THE PRESIDENT THAT DAY...
MAYBE THERE WAS MORE GOOD IN ALL OF IT.


GENEPRO
Authorized Personel only

コト
♪

UH.
PRESIDENT, DO YOU REMEMBER THESE FLOWERS?
OH, FLOWERS. HOW NICE.
JUST SPLENDID...
JUST THE FLOWERS ARE SPLENDID, I MEAN.
JUST KIDDING...
HM, HMMMMMMMM, THEY'RE NOT... ROSES.
THEY'RE ALSTROEMERIA!
SO... SORRY, SORRY...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT FLOWERS...
BUT THEY'RE PRETTY.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S FINE
WH WHAT IS IT, YOSHIOKA -KUN?
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SO COOL BACK THEN...
MATSU-MARU -KUN...
YOU HAD YOSHIOKA -SAN'S PHOTO COLLECTION?
I GUESS HER CHEST IS BIG, AFTER ALL...
YOU WERE LOOKING AT HER BREASTS IN A SWIMSUIT, THEN...
I DIDN'T LOOK THAT MUCH!
DO... DON'T GET MAD!